

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 /084 W

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P 260849Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1535

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: LABOR AFFAIRS, ETC.

REF: MANILA 1195

1. JANUARY 25 MASS PROTEST RALLY, PROMOTED BY CPP LABOR FRONT BUKLURAN AND TO INCLUDE LABOR, RADICALS CHURCH ELEMENTS, AND STUDENTS, FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. VARIOUS ELEMENTS APPARENTLY DID ATTEMPT TO ASSEMBLY AT POINTS AROUND THE CITY FOR EVENTUAL ASSEMBLY AT LUNETTA PARK IN DOWNTOWN MANILA BUT THEY WERE VERY CLOSELY CONTAINED BY FAIRLY LARGE POLICE/ MILITARY ELEMENTS AND NEVER DID GET TO LUNETTA. GOVERNMENT ARRESTS OF LEFTWING ELEMENTS INCLUDING THOSE IN LABOR MOVEMENT CONTINUES (SEE SEPTTEL).

2. ACCORDING TO AP ACCOUNT, HOWEVER, SOME 1000 SQUATTERS (UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE OF 300 POLICE) DID MEET AT DOWNTOWN HUGH WILSON METHODIST SOCIAL CENTER MORNING JANUARY 25 TO PASS PETITION DEMANDING RELEASE OF ARRESTED SLUM LEADERS AND END OF HARRASSMENT.

SPEAKING TO CONVENTION, BISHOP MARIANO GAVIOLA (AFP MILITARY VICAR GENERAL) REPORTEDLY PROMISED SEE APPOINTMENT WITH MARCOS TO PRESENT PETITION. MRS. MARCOS, WHO DURING COURSE JANUARY 21 MEETING WITH SLUM LEADERS AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

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HAD PROMISED ADDRESS JANUARY 25 SQUATTERS' ALLIANCE

CONVENTION, NEVER SHOWED UP. ACCORDING ANOTHER REPORT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY, THIS MEETING OF SQUATTERS AND RELIGIOUS AND LABOR ELEMENTS ACTUALLY NUMBERED SOME 3000, AND WAS LARGEST OF SCATTERED MEETINGS HELD JANUARY 25 (SEE PARAGRAPH BELOW).

3. USUALLY WELL-INFORMED SOURCES FROM DOL, TUCP, RELIGIOUS ORDERS, AND CBCP (CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE) TOLD LABATT THAT PRINCIPAL PROTEST DEMONSTRATION APPARENTLY NEVER MATERIALIZED. AMERICAN JESUIT REPORTED HE HAD HEARD THAT ONE OF TOP ORGANIZERS HAD CALLED OFF DEMONSTRATION AT LAST MOMENT, BUT WAS UNABLE IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL. A TOP DOL OFFICIAL NOTED THERE HAD BEEN SCATTERED SMALL MEETINGS OF DISSIDENT WORKERS MORNING JANUARY 25, BUT NO MASS RALLY.

4. ON JANUARY 24, GOP DETAINED AND FIVE HOURS LATER DEPORTED TWO ITALIAN PRIESTS WHO HAD BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN LAST OCTOBER'S LA TONDENA STRIKE AND WITH WORKER AND SQUATTER ELEMENTS IN TONDON SLUM AREA. BELONGING TO PIME ORDER (PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS), THE TWO (REV. FR. FRANCIS ALESSI, PIME REGIONAL SUPERIOR, AND REV. LUIGI COCQUIO) WERE PRESUMABLY SUMMARILY DEPORTED UNDER PROVISIONS P.D. 823 PROHIBITING "FOREIGN MEDDLING" IN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES (SEE MANILA 15475, 1975 AND MANILA 17655, 1975). NEITHER ARCHBISHOP JAIME SIN NOR PAPAL NUNCIO MSGR. BRUNO TORPIGLIANI HAVE YET COMMENTED ON SUDDEN GOP ACTION.

5. COMMENT: WAGE OF GOP ARRESTS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO RALLY INCLUDING SOME RELATED TO BUKLURAN'S ACTIVITIES, AND MASSIVE ARRAY OF GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES ON ACTUAL DAY OF RALLY OBVIOUSLY DISRUPTED RALLY. PROPOSED THEMES OF RALLY, HOWEVER - THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND TO EARN DECENT WAGE - ARE STILL VALID ISSUE FOR ALL LABOR MOVEMENT AND FOR THOSE SUCH AS CHURCH ACTIVITISTS AND SOME STUDENTS WHO IDENTIFY WITH THEM. IT IS LIKELY GOP WILL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH THESE ISSUES AGAIN, WHETHER FROM BUKLURAM OR MORE RESPECTABLE QUARTERS. RECOGNIZED LABOR ORGANIZATION (TUCP), FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BELATEDLY DEMANDED INCREASE OF MINIMUM DAILY WAGE FROM P8 (APPROXIMATELY

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US \$1) TO P18 (SEE SEPTTEL) WHICH LABOR SECRETARY OPLE REJECTED WITH ALACRITY.

6. GOP HERETOFORE HAD BEEN TREADING VERY SOFTLY WITH RESPECT ANY ACTIONS AGAINST CHURCH, AND RADICAL RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM ARRESTS OF ACTIVITIES NOTED ABOVE. DEPORTATION OF TWO ITALIAN PRIESTS ON EVE SEMI-ANNUAL CPCP MEETING AT BAGUIO JANUARY 26-31, MAY

PROVOKE STATEMENT FROM ASSEMBLY BISHOPS. UNCOMPROMISING  
ACTION AGAINST PIME MISSIONARIES CONFIRMS GOP INTENT  
ENFORCE "STRICT PROHIBITION" AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED TRADE  
UNION ACTIVITIES BY ALIENS, INCLUDING RECOURSE TO  
"IMMEDIATE AND SUMMARY DEPORTATION" (P.D. 823, AS AMENDED).  
INASMUCH THIS RESTRICTION AT PRESENT PRINCIPALLY AIMED  
AT LABOR EFFORTS OF CHURCH'S FOREIGN RELIGIOUS  
ORDERS, CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS MAY WELL HEAT UP AGAIN.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MANILA01297  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760029-0002  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760122/aaaaassi.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MANILA 1195  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: LABOR AFFAIRS, ETC.  
**TAGS:** ELAB, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006